3. Authorised dealers have been permitted to grant loan/overdraft facilities to resident individual/firms/companies in India against collateral of fixed deposits held in FCNR Accounts subject to certain condition without reference to the RBI.

4. Loans granted to Account holders themselves against their FCNR deposits can now be repaid from Rupee funds held in their Non-Resident Ordinary Account subject to the condition that interest payable on such loans would be commercial rates.

(c) The position of outstanding balance under the FCNR Scheme is given below month-wise from August, 1991:-

Month	*Rs. in crores*
August, 1991	14838
Sept., 1991	14455
Oct., 1991	14144
Nov., 1991	14071
Dec., 1991	14263
Jan., 1992	14173

Newsprint Import

*261. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any irregularities in the import of newsprint have been detected recently as reported in the Times of India dated February 9, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the government;

(d) whether the Government have investigated or propose to investigate the alleged irregularities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f). Government have noted the Newspaper report in the Times of India dated 9.2.92. The facts in the matter are as follows:

i) STC purchased 9000 MTs of glazed newsprint from FINNPAP in October, 1991 at a FOB rate of $ 609 PMT with option to purchase an additional quantity of 5000 MTs.

ii) On 30.12.1991, S.T.C. decided to exercise the option for purchase of this additional quantity of 5000 MTs from FINNPAP at the FOB rate of $ 609 PMT.

iii) On the basis of a complaint received in January, 1992 that the international price was lower than $ 609 PMT FOB, the STC had advised the supplier FINNPAP not to go ahead with the production till such time they hear from STC in the matter.

iv) S.T.C. is now seeking legal opinion before cancelling the contract for

purchase of the additional 5000 MTs optional quantity.

[Translation]

Carpet Weaving Training Centres

*262. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH RAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of carpet weaving training centres in the country, Statewise;

(b) the number of such training centres closed down during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some new training centres in these States;

(e) if so, the proposed locations thereof and the time by which these centres are likely to be set up; and

(f) the total number of persons trained in carpet weaving during the above period and the total amount of loans/grants given to them under the self-employment scheme?

*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) State-wise details of Carpet Weaving Training Centres run departmentally by the Union Government are tabled in the statement attached.

(b) and (c). No centre has been closed down during the last 3 years. However, the Carpet Weaving Training Centres are peripatetion in nature and are shifted from one place to another according to training needs.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The total number of trainees trained in carpet weaving during the last 3 years is as under:-

1988-89	8212
1989-90	6230
1990-91	6554

Information regarding the amount of loans/grants given to the trainees under the self-employment scheme is not available as this comes under the purview of the State Governments.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	*Name of the State*	*Massive Training Centres*	*Advanced Training Centres*	*Washing Centres*	*Total*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*
1.	Uttar Pradesh	91	60	4	155
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	118	57	—	175
3.	Bihar	25	4	1	30